

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 716

Introduced by Engel, 17; Aguilar, 35; Bourne, 8; Brown, 6;
Connealy, 16; Cunningham, 40; Erdman, 47; Flood, 19;
Foley, 29; Jensen, 20; Johnson, 37; Kremer, 34;
Mines, 18; Smith, 48

Read first time January 19, 2005

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to economic development; to create the
2 Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training Institute as a
3 division of the Department of Economic Development; and
4 to provide powers and duties.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: (1)
2 Other states throughout the country, in order to compete nationally
3 and internationally in assisting and encouraging the retention and
4 expansion of job opportunities for their workforce, have adopted
5 and funded competitive, flexible, and discretionary custom job
6 training programs; and (2) for Nebraska to be competitive in
7 retaining and expanding such job opportunities, it needs to develop
8 and fund, to be phased in over the next five years, a program which
9 would provide at least twenty-five million dollars in annual custom
10 job training assistance.

11 Sec. 2. The Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training
12 Institute, a division of the Department of Economic Development, is
13 hereby created, for the purpose of operating a custom job training
14 and education program to provide quick and effective job training
15 to workers that will meet the employment training needs of
16 existing, new, and expanding Nebraska employers.

17 Sec. 3. The Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training
18 Institute may utilize the programs offered by postsecondary
19 technical schools, community colleges, and other educational
20 institutions. The institute shall be operated on a statewide basis
21 to assist any community in Nebraska to become more competitive in
22 industrial and economic development.

23 Sec. 4. The Director of Economic Development shall
24 appoint a director of the Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training
25 Institute, and the Department of Economic Development shall provide
26 the institute with adequate staff and resources to administer an
27 effective, statewide training program commensurate with the funding
28 received for the institute from the State of Nebraska or other

1 sources.

2 Sec. 5. (1) Custom training programs approved by the
3 Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training Institute may be accomplished
4 using the following methods:

5 (a) The institute may enter into agreements with
6 postsecondary technical schools, community colleges, other
7 educational institutions, and Nebraska employers to provide the
8 custom training needed for projects submitted by Nebraska
9 employers; and

10 (b) Any such custom training program shall be based on a
11 specific training needs analysis and shall be part of a training
12 plan which defines the training and educational services to be
13 provided.

14 (2) The institute shall reimburse the postsecondary
15 technical school, community college, educational institution, or
16 Nebraska employer all or part of the costs of the approved custom
17 training program. Final determination regarding the amount of cost
18 reimbursement shall be at the sole discretion of the institute.

19 Sec. 6. The Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training
20 Institute may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry
21 out the objectives and purposes of this act.

22 Sec. 7. To qualify for training assistance under this
23 act, an employer shall submit an application to the Advantage
24 Nebraska Workforce Training Institute. The application shall be
25 designed by the institute and shall request from the employer
26 information necessary to understand the proposed occupational or
27 skills custom training program and such other information
28 determined to be necessary for the institute to evaluate the

1 proposed training program. All employers which request training
2 assistance under the institute must qualify under the guidelines,
3 rules, and regulations adopted and promulgated by the institute.

4 Sec. 8. The Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training
5 Institute may accept grants of money, materials, services, or
6 property of any kind from the State of Nebraska, any federal
7 agency, or any private person or entity if the receipt of such
8 grant will help the institute in carrying out the objectives of
9 this act.